Grant, R. to Minister of Education, Ontario — Dec. 1919 - May 1920

(064)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Installation - November 529.

MEMORANDUM FOR 1945

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Dear Baker Room -

June 9 and June 30, 1920.

Who was the Minister of Education at that time?

ask Dean Lewis.

Dr Grant - Minister of Education -

Mr. Drury - Prime Minister.

December 31st, 1919

The Honourable E. B. Grant,
Minister of Education,
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Grant:

Will you allow me to lay before you in outline the requests of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto as they were presented to you and the Cabinet yesterday ? These requests are threefold:

(1) The estimates of the University for the present financial year ending June 30th, 1920, were laid before you together with a letter from the Honourable W. H. Hearst, dated June 18th, 1919, stating that the Government approved the estimates. On the basis of this letter the Governors have been acting and these estimates have now been in effect for six months.

It was brought to the attention of the Cabinet that in these estimates there is a deficit of $347,777 to be temporarily charged to capital. At the same time the Governors stated that in view of the large and unexpected increase in students during the present year and also of a surplus on the operations of last year it will probably be found at the end of the present financial year, that is to say 30th June, 1920, that this deficit will amount to not more than $400,000. The Governors therefore ask the Cabinet to have this amount, that is to say $400,000, placed in the estimates of the Government and passed by the next session of the Legislature.

(2) The Board of Governors laid before the Cabinet a request for a grant of $125,000 in order to meet their share of the capital indebtedness still resting upon the Toronto General Hospital. This total indebtedness amounts to about $800,000 and the Trustees of the Toronto General Hospital have undertaken to remove this debt provided they can secure the co-operation of the City and the University, both of whom are associated with private donors in the maintenance and control of the Hospital. Private donations to the amount of $500,000 have already been secured, and the City has promised $125,000 provided the Government through the University

will authorise the payment of the same amount.

Two years ago the Government made a grant of $25,000 for the running expenses of the Hospital to meet an emergency. At that time the Government was of opinion that it could do this more easily through the University than by direct grant. The Board of Governors urge upon the Government the desirability of having this debt removed as it is crippling the development of the Hospital and thereby also of the medical education given to the students of the University. Few Hospitals on the continent are better equipped, a result due to the munificence of the private benefactors in this city.

(3) The Board of Governors also laid before the Government a memorandum on buildings. Of these two were already authorised by the former Government and the Electrical Building is now under construction. Plans for the Anatomical Building and tenders on these plans have been received. The amount, however, is much larger than that originally expected. The building if constructed of brick would cost $140,000 and of stone $110,000 more. The reason for construction in stone, which was favoured by the late Government, is that it will give uniformity to the buildings on Queen's Park. The pressure of students in the Faculty of Medicine is such that this building should be proceeded with at once.

In addition to these two buildings, which have been already authorised, a plan for buildings the erection of which to be in the near future was also laid before the Cabinet together with a memorandum giving some detail as to the needs for each building.

It is also suggested to the Government by Sir Edmund Walker that the capital sum of two and a half millions involved in this plan could be met by a system of annuities guaranteed by the Government of the Province.

If there is any further information that I can set before you I shall be glad to meet any of the Ministers at their convenience.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

March 23rd, 1920

The Honourable E. C. Grant,
Minister of Education,
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Grant:

The special grant asked for by the University for maintenance to the end of the academic year ending June 30th, 1920 is $490,000. Last year the special grant made by the Legislature was $200,000. The increase is due in the main to two causes. The first is the increase of the salaries of the staff by 25%, which was authorised by the last Government when the estimates were passed. It should be borne in mind that some on the staff have had no increase for twelve years. Part of the increase of salaries also was due to the restoration to full-time of a large number of men who had been absent on war service and were in receipt of half pay. In addition to this a number of appointments had to be made in view of the probable increase in the number of students. Additions to the staff were also necessary because compulsory physical training has been introduced for the students. This has been undertaken for reasons of health and for the general physical improvement of the undergraduate body. Some $20,000 also is due to additions to the Library for structural changes that were held over and for books which could not be received during the war.

At the same time you may be interested in the accompanying statistics, a comparison of the expenditure of the University of Toronto during the current year with certain American Universities for the year ended June 30th, 1918. It should be borne in mind that the figures of the American Universities would probably be greatly increased during the present year so as to form a proper basis of comparison with Toronto, for many of them have advanced their salaries, and the cost of everything has risen meantime. A number of these Universities are only slightly larger in attendance than the University of Toronto. Indeed in the expensive Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Applied Science the University of Toronto is larger than most.

We may count on the expenditure of the University

this year as something over $1,300,000. It is evident from this comparison that this University in the way of expenditure is one of the most economical on the continent.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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March 29th, 1920

The Honourable R. H. Grant,
Minister of Education,
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Grant:

The special grant asked for by the University for maintenance to the end of the academic year ending June 30th, 1920, is $400,000. Last year the special grant made by the Legislature was $200,000. The increase is due to several causes. The salaries of the staff were increased by 25%, a measure which was authorised by the last Government when the estimates were passed. It should be borne in mind that some of the staff have had no increase for twelve years. Part of the increase of salaries also was due to the restoration to full-time of a large number of men who had been absent on war service and were in receipt of half pay. In addition to this a number of appointments had to be made in view of the probable increase in the number of students. Additions to the staff were also necessary because compulsory physical training has been introduced for the students. This has been undertaken for reasons of health and for the general physical improvement of the undergraduate body. Some $20,000 also is due to additions to the Library for structural changes that were held over and for books which could not be received during the war.

May I also respectfully draw your attention to the request that $125,000 be appropriated in order that the University may meet its share of the capital sum of $800,000 still unpaid for the erection of the Toronto General Hospital in which the University has special privileges for teaching. The City has voted its share of $125,000, and the remainder has been raised from private donations, but the contribution of the City and the donors are contingent upon the University doing its part.

A building for the accommodation of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Strength of Materials was authorised by the late Government, and its erection was begun

last spring. The estimated cost of the building is slightly over $300,000 and the construction is now well under way. I understand that the late Government made no appropriation to meet the cost of erection and the University has not the funds at its disposal upon which to draw for this purpose. Would you be kind enough to see that arrangements are made whereby our obligation in this respect may be met ?

At the same time you may be interested in the accompanying statistical comparison of the expenditure of the University of Toronto during the current year with certain American Universities for the year ended June 30th, 1918. It should be borne in mind that the figures of the American Universities would probably be greatly increased during the present year so as to form a proper basis of comparison with Toronto, for many of them have advanced their salaries, and the cost of everything has risen meantime. Only a few of these Universities have a larger attendance than the University of Toronto. Indeed in the expensive Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Applied Science the University of Toronto is larger than most. We may count on the expenditure of the University this year as something over $1,300,000. It is evident from this comparison that this University in the way of expenditure is one of the most economical on the continent.

On Saturday I received the most recent information with regard to the University of Michigan. Unfortunately I cannot give you the full Budget, but the State is voting $1,650,000 to the University for general maintenance during the year 1920-21. This sum is realised partly from a mill tax and partly from special grants. In addition to this a special vote of $2,900,000 has been made to be expended during the next two years for additions to the Hospital, Library and School of Education. During the past ten years the State has voted on an average six or seven hundred thousand dollars a year for buildings and special purposes, that is to say in addition to the usual grant for maintenance. The scale of salaries in Michigan is very much the same as in Toronto except the salaries of some of the leading professors which are larger.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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May 20th, 1920.

The Honourable H. H. Grant,
Minister of Education,
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Grant:

The closing exercises of the University are to be held Thursday, June 3rd, and Friday, June 4th. On the evening of June 3rd honorary degrees are to be conferred on General Sir Arthur Currie and others, and on Friday at two o'clock the regular commencement exercises are to take place. If you and Mrs. Grant are able to be present on either or both of these occasions we shall be very happy to see you, and I shall be glad to send you details as to the proceedings.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.